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# U.T.O.L UPDATE



Universal Touch of Life Medical Institution

2009 Issue I

*And the Lord answered me, and said, write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry*

### **Habakkuk 2:2-3**

*Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

### **Phil 3:13-14**



Thanking God for you and praying your new year is blessed in *every way!*

Each year, almost all the major news magazines put out an issue with special pictorial sections recalling people & events that made news during the previous year. Many of the magazines also include articles by experts predicting what they expect to see happening in the years ahead. But do you wonder how you'll do this year? Will you be as busy? Will you make any better use of your time? In 359 days, when the year is over, will you look back with joy or with regret? Will you be looking at the future with anticipation, or with dread?

There is a passage of Scripture that I believe can be of help to us as we look forward to the rest of 2009. The passage is Ephesians 5:15-17, & here is what it says, "*Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*"

Another year has come & gone. A new year stretches before us. May the Lord help us to redeem the time. And during the New Year may you have enough happiness to keep you sweet - enough trials to keep you strong - enough sorrow to keep you human - enough hope to keep you happy - enough failure to keep you humble - enough success to keep you eager - enough friends to give you comfort - enough wealth to meet your needs - enough enthusiasm to make you look forward to tomorrow - & enough determination to make each day better than the day before.

May the Lord help us to use the 8,760 hours of this year the wisest way we can for HIM and for HIS GLORY!

In Christ,

  
MANUEL STA. ROMANA JR. M.D.  
President/Chairman

## World's Biggest Earthquake Response Simulation Exercise



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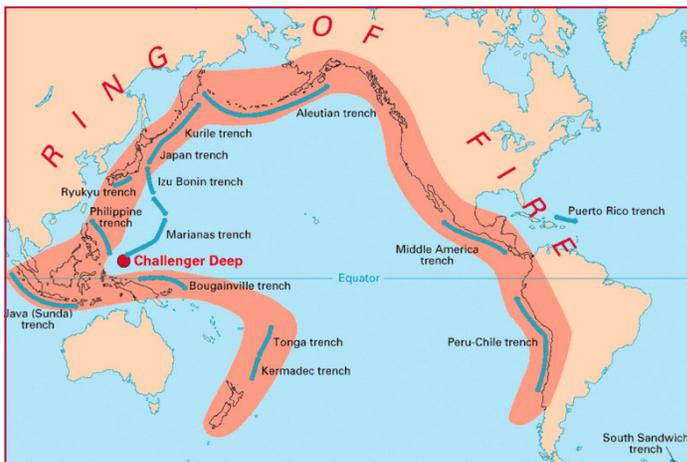
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The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Asia-Pacific Earthquake Response Simulation Exercise jointly organized by the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) took place last year. This was **the world's biggest INSARAG Exercise ever organized with 18 countries, 52 organizations and over 270 individuals participated.**

The objectives of the exercise are to familiarize key government agencies on INSARAG concepts, tools and mechanisms; test government's policies and protocols on international humanitarian assistance; build capacities of national Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams including interface with international USAR teams who will test INSARAG methodologies; test operational capacity of a field-based NDCC Emergency Operations Center (NDCC-EOC) and; test cluster coordination mechanisms in a destructive earthquake scenario.

The Exercise scenario was culled from the results of the Metro Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study (MMEIRS) completed in 2004



The **Pacific Ring of Fire** is an area of frequent **earthquakes and volcanic eruptions** encircling the basin of the Pacific Ocean. In a 40,000 km horseshoe shape, it is associated with a nearly continuous series of oceanic trenches, volcanic arcs and volcanic belts and/or plate movements. The Ring of Fire has 452 volcanoes and is home to over 75% of the world's active and dormant volcanoes.

by PHIVOLCS, MMDA and JICA. Secretary of National Defense and NDCC Chairman, Gilberto Teodoro, Jr. has explicitly stated the need to undertake regular preparedness activities with clearly defined objectives given the susceptibility of the country to natural hazards such as earthquakes. He added that mitigation and preparedness remains as the most effective strategies in minimizing the adverse effects that hazards could potentially bring about. Moreover, we need to understand our individual responsibilities and deliverables beforehand, we need to know protocols and procedures

to be able to coordinate our efforts, and more importantly, we need to rehearse and practice how to carry out our work and keep doing it with regularity before disaster strikes again. We need to invest time, effort and resources to achieve a respectable level of preparedness. Response preparedness is the least that we can do for our countrymen who could become victims of disasters in the future

Mr. Kasidis Rochanakorn, Director of UNOCHA in Geneva, Switzerland under whose office is the INSARAG Secretariat also attended this three-day Exercise.

